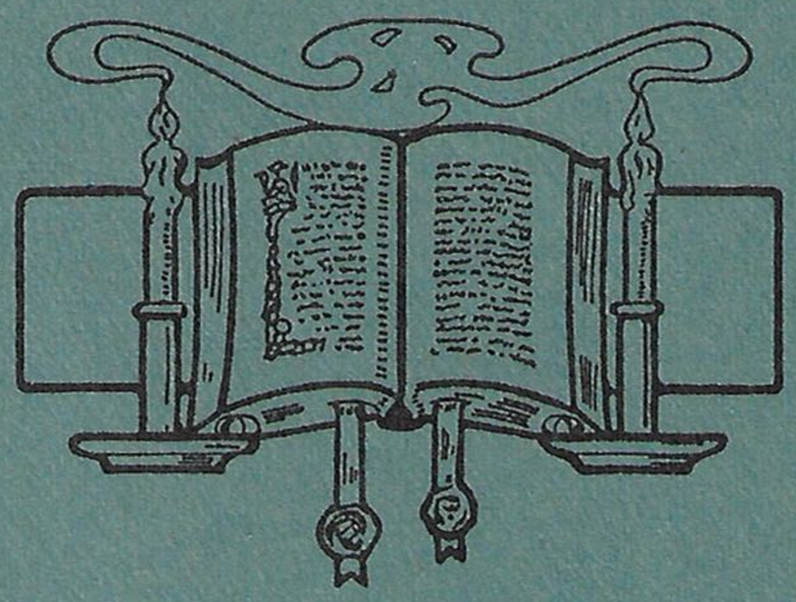
Two Hundredth Anniversary

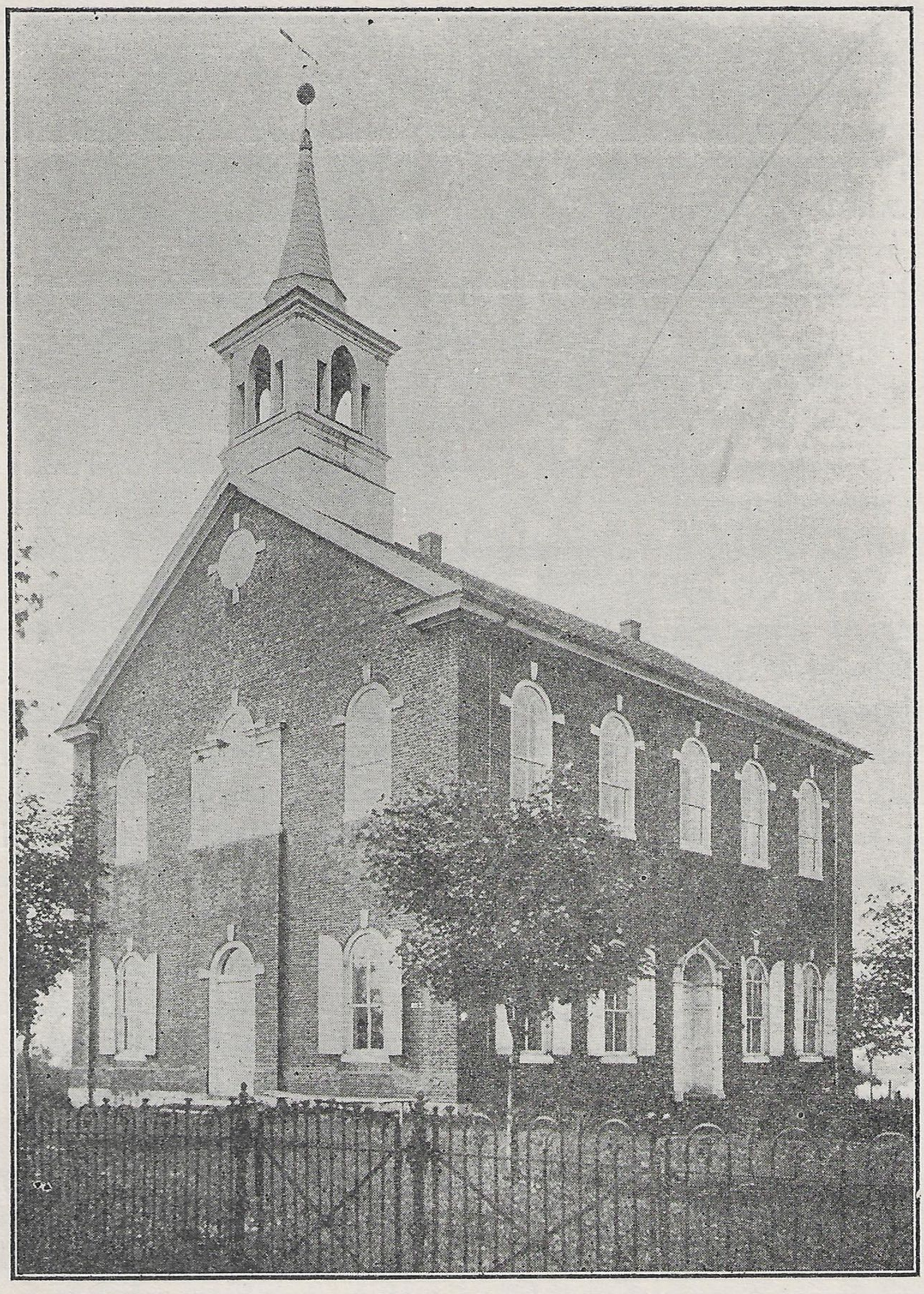
Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Brickerville, Pennsylvania



1730--1930

HISTORY - AND - PROGRAM



EMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRICKERVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Compendium of the History of Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

IN the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and adjacent States there are eight congregations who in this year (1930) celebrate the 200th anniversary of their organization. There are only three congregations registered in the minutes of Synod whose history dates prior to 1730, and therefore it may be said that Emanuel Church of Brickerville is counted among the fourth oldest congregations in the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

In endeavoring to give a brief historical sketch of two hundred years, the reader will appreciate the difficulty in determining what should be included and what should be omitted. It would indeed be interesting to give all the available data concerning the origin, growth, difficulties and succeses of two hundred years of Church work. But that is not permissable in the space and purpose of this compendium.

For the matter herein given we are indebted almost entirely to the research of the late Rev. F. J. F. Schantz, D.D., pastor of the Friendens Church, of Myerstown, Pa., who for three years served Emanuel Church as provisional pastor, and who prepared and read a paper on the "History of the Brickerville Congregation in Lancaster County," before the Lancaster County Historical Society on December 2, 1898. The Rev. Dr. Schantz begins his paper with the following interesting introduction: "To every true American citizen Pennsylvania will ever be of interest in view of the events that occured on its soil in connection with the origin and development of our glorious republic.

"Citizens of Pennsylvania rejoice in their Commonwealth in view of what it is, and will ever gladly speak of and hear of what aided in the making of it. Many factors must be acknowledged—the home, the school, the spheres of labor, the State and the church, and all conneced with them.

"The past ought to be of interest to those who live today and enjoy the results of the labors of preceeding generations, and thus no apology need be offered by those who endeavor to preserve the history of the different factors that aided in making our State what it is.

"In the closing quarter of the present century a commendable interest has been shown in the presentation of the history of Synods and congregations that have had to do with the supply of the spiritual wants of men that they might have part in the Kingdom of the Annointed on earth and in heaven, and whilst on earth be better indivi-

duals, constitute better families and communities and better citizens of the Commonwealth and the republic.

"The immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania at an early period soon took steps to secure the advantages of the Christian congregation, the church building and the school house. Lancaster County had at a very early date Evangelical Lutheran congregations at Lancaster, New Holland, Muddy Creek, Bergstrass, Strasburg, Manheim, Warwick and other places.

"The Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Warwick Township, Lancaster County, Pa., now named Emanuel Evangelical Congregation of Brickerville, Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County, Pa., has an interesting, though varied, history, and the purpose of this paper is to contribute to the preservation of the same."

The exact date of the organization of this congregation is not recorded. Evidently ministerial acts were performed and probably public services were held in the community as early as 1727 by itinerant ministers, especially the pastor of the Lutheran Church at Tulpehocken, Berks County, Pa., with which charge it is quite likely that many of the people were identified and who later constituted the nucleus of the congregation at Brickerville.

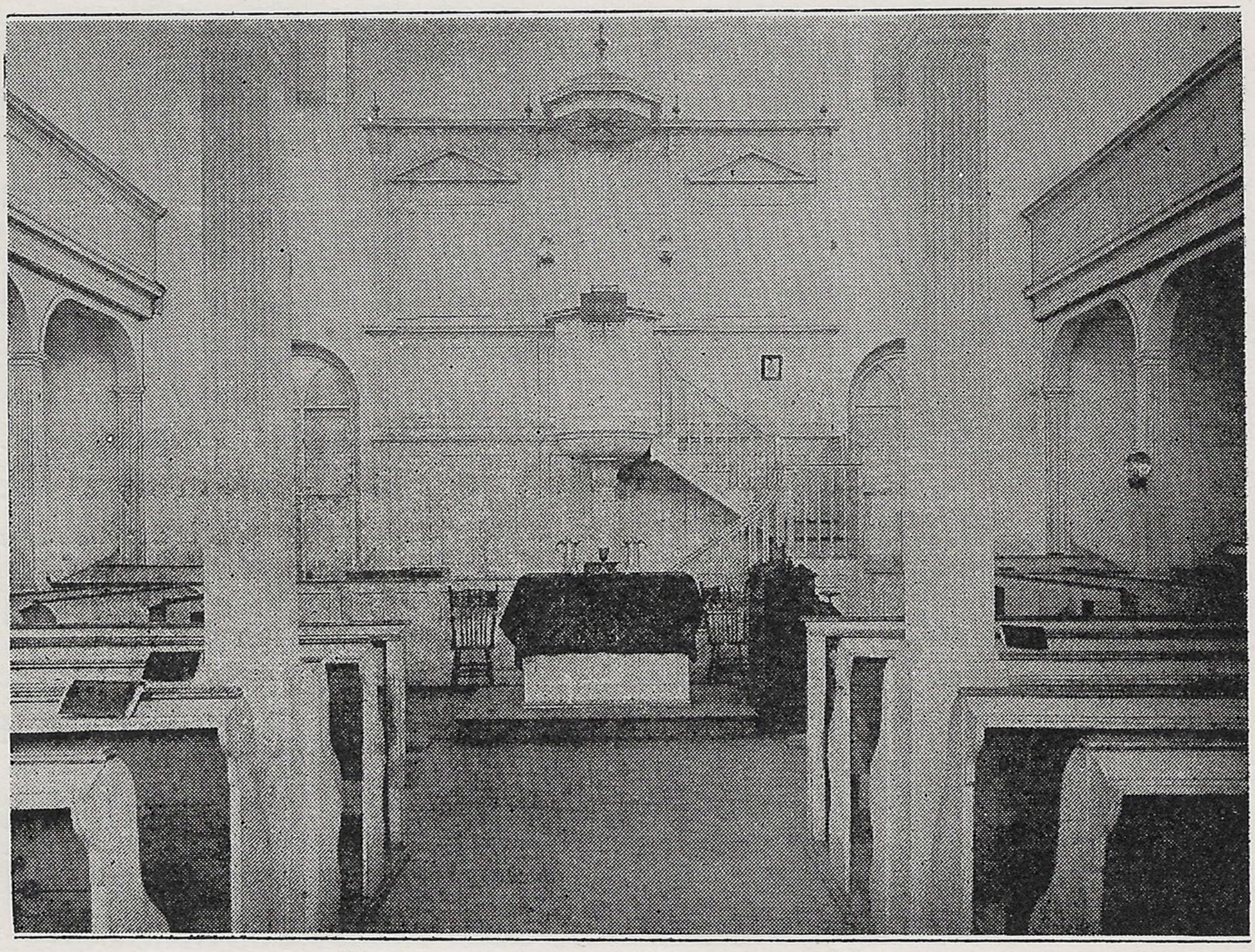
We may presume that because of the "Tulpehocken Confusion," a period of discord at Tulpehocken between the Lutherans and Moravians because of property rights, the Lutherans at Brickerville and vicinity determined to form a congregation at this place.

The Church records, of which there are a number in good state of preservation, and the oldest of these, bound in parchment, is especially valuable and interesting. While this old book records but little besides that of baptisms, marriages and funerals, the title page contains this inscription: "Kirchenbuch und Protocoll fuer die Evangelishe Gemeinde in Warwick do Anno 1730 angefangen," (The Church Book and Register for the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation begun in A. D., 1730.) From this the date of organization is taken.

Just who the first regular pastor was is difficult to determine, but it would seem that the pastor of the Tulpehocken Church ministered to the congregation at Brickerville for a considerable time after its organization.

The first entries on the records of ministerial acts were made by the Rev. John Casper Stoever, which, as he states, "were gathered from other sources with all possible accuracy in 1743." This would indicate that Pastor Stoever simply recorded such data as he could gather and may not be all that occured prior to his pastorate.

The first baptisms recorded are dated in 1731 and the first marriages in 1735. Rev. Dr. Schantz says, "We may infer that there was a congregation as early as 1730, but the only reference to a church are the words, 'Kirche and Gemeinde.' While it is positive that Pastor Stoever made the early entries in the record, he did not sign as pastor of the congregation, but as pastor at that time, 1743, in Conestoga. We would be glad to know why he did not sign as pastor in Warwick.



THE OLD INTERIOR
(1807 TO 1922)

That he cared for the spiritual wants of the people is evident from the first church book, and in another church book he is named, 'our old pastor'."

Although the records do not relate the erection of a church building, this does not prove that there was no church building, or school house used for church purposes at that period. The building may have been a temporary structure and not adequate to meet the wants of the congregation with the increase of years. In 1744 a tract of land containing 29 acres was purchased from the Penns for the "sum of 4 pounds, 9 shillings and 9 pence, lawful money of Pennsylvania," (about $22.00.) "The twenty-nine acres were given, released and

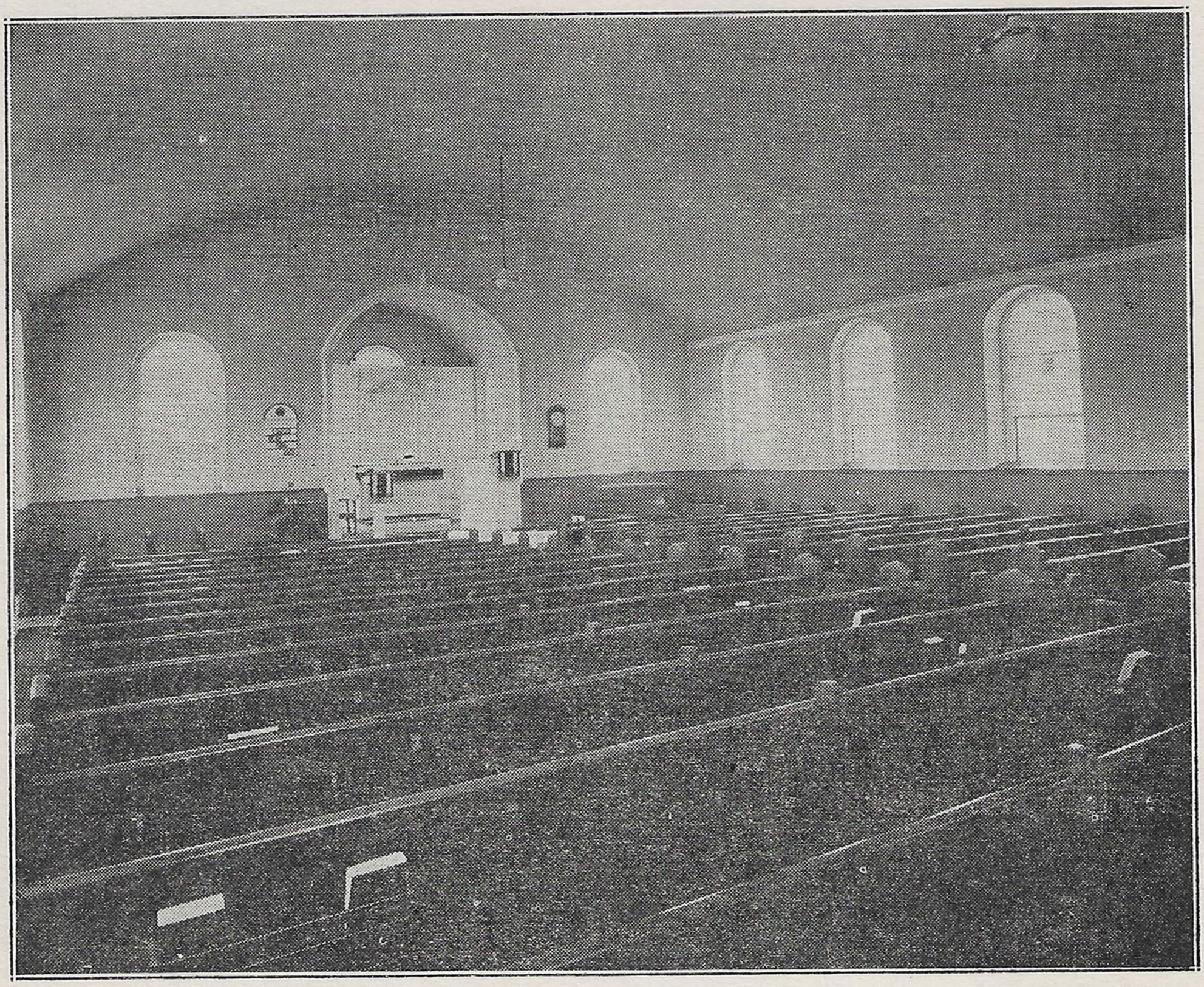
confirmed to the said trustees, and George Thomas, Lieutenant Governor of the Province, set his hand to and caused the great seal of the said Province to be attached to the deed on May 10th, 1744."

Again, although there is no record of the fact, it is certain that a church building was erected within a very short time after the purchase of this land, for the statement is given that a meeting was held on February 24th, 1745, at "the church lately erected." We find no account of the laying of the cornerstone of the church nor of its consecration. Neither have we any knowledge of the dimensions of the building nor of the material used. Tradition asserts it was of logs and very crude. It may have been of considerable size as it is quite certain that this building was used as a hospital for the sick and wounded soldiers of the Continental Army during the encampment at Valley Forge. It is also confidently alleged that General George Washington worshiped in this church when on his journeys through this section and his visits to the "Elizabeth Mansion," where he evidently often enjoyed the hospitality of Baron and Mrs. Henry W. Stiegel. The latter were active members of this congregation. Mr. Stiegel served as a vestryman, being a trustee from 1769 to 1779. He also was the organist for a number of years, and represented the congregation as lay-delegate at the convention of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia in 1762.

That Rev. Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, was personally interested in the "Warwick Church," as he was indeed concerned with all the Lutheran congregations in Pennsylvania of that time, is evident from the fact that in his visitations of the Churches, this one was also included. We have a special interest in the entry made in Rev. Muhlenberg's personal diary which states that on "Saturday, February 27, 1762, rode four miles further to Mr. St's Iron Works, and preached on Ps. 22:26-27, and remained during the night." This of course, must have been Baron Stiegel's Furnaces, and the only Lutheran church near the place was that of the "Warwick Church" at Brickerville.

Although, as we have presumed to think, the "Tulpehocken Confusion" may have given occasion for the organization of the Warwick congregation, thus hoping to escape such distressing conditions, there soon arose difficulties and troubles in their own midst. We mention only one instance which probably caused disturbances for several years. It seems that from the close of Pastor Stoever's first pastorate in 1754 until the coming of Rev. F. A. C. Muhlenberg in 1770, there must have been great difficulty in securing and keeping a regular pastor. The old church record shows that during these sixteen years the entries must

have been made by a number of different persons, because the writing differs greatly. It seems that sometime during this same period a preacher by the name of Peter Mischler came from Tulpehocken and Heidelberg and worked among the people of Warwick causing much trouble. As Pastor Stoever stated before the Synod in 1769, "Mischler crept into the Warwick congregation and caused a split—yes, even recently had a boy break through a window, open the church door and



THE PRESENT INTERIOR
AS REMODELED IN 1922

entered it with his party to hold so-called worship, although he knew the elders and deacons in Warwick congregation had applied to the United Ministerium and had several times been served from Lancaster."

Late in 1769, under the pastorate of Rev. Daniel Kuhn, a constitution was adopted and apparently peace and concord were again established. Rev. Kuhn was pastor only for one year but he accomplished much good in bringing about concord among the members and placing them on a better organic basis. With the coming of Rev. F. A. C. Muhlenberg, the son of Patriarch Muhlenberg, having just been ordained, and this being his first charge, the congregation took on re-

newed interest and activity. From thence on there seems to have been a steady and sturdy growth in material welfare and spiritual zeal.

With the beginning of the nineteenth century the congregation enjoyed a special degree of prosperity. Besides the building of the new church in 1806 and 1807, a new parsonage was built in 1812-1814, the old school house was rebuilt in 1816 and in 1819 the stone wall enclosing the cemetery was erected at considerable cost.

As just stated above with reference to a *new* parsonage, we are reminded of the fact that we know nothing about the former parsonage, where it was or what it was like. The only reference we have found is on the record that "On April 21, 1779, H. W. Stiegel, by permission of the Church Council, moved into the parsonage." And again, "On April 17, 1780, H. W. Stiegel vacated the parsonage and moved to Heidelberg (Schaefferstown) into the 'Thurmerung' (Castle) which he had in former time caused to be erected." The building spoken of as the "new parsonage" is that now occupied by the Janitor-Sexton, Harry W. Strauss.

When the "old school house" which was rebuilt in 1816 was originally erected we find no record, but it must have been early in the history of the congregation, for it is stated that when H. W. Stiegel vacated the parsonage in April, 1780, "it was unoccupied until August 29th, when the school-master, George Fred. Spyer, moved into the same, as the old school house was in a ruined condition." We presume the "old school house," is the building still standing on the corner lot east of the church and now occupied by Mrs. Frances Blantz.

In the year 1805, on May 23rd, the congregation took action and resolved to build a new church. The building committee were: George Weidman, Michael Kline, Leonard Miller and Alexander Zartman. Work was commenced early the next year and the corner stone was laid, August 12, 1806. It was at this time that the name, "Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brickerville, Pa.," was adopted. The new church was consecrated on October 25, 1807. Pastor Emanuel Schulze, Rev. Heinrich Muhlenberg, D.D., of Lancaster, and Rev. George Lochman, of Lebanon, officiated. The building, now 123 years old, is the one still in use and the exterior has never been changed except that the steeple was erected and a 520 pound Meneely bell was placed therein in 1860 and the chancel recess was added when the interior was remodeled in 1922. For 110 years after the erection of the building there were very few repairs needed, but then the original roof of split and hand-smoothed white pine shingles had to be replaced. When the interior was remodeled recently the woodwork was found to be in perfectly sound condition, and the work of the builders showed

astounding perfection of carpentry and expert workmanship. Much of the old paneling, moulding and railing was used in putting the building into its present form. This structure in its original state was of pure colonial style, with gallery on three sides, pews set in line with the three sides, and enclosed seats for the church officials. The pulpit was of the "wine-glass" style, entered by means of a winding stairway of sixteen steps. The changes made in the recent remodeling was the adding of a chancel recess at the west end of the building and placing a floor so as to make it of two stories. The lower floor is arranged for Sunday School rooms, kitchen, furnace-room and vestibule, and the auditorium on the second floor. The old wine-glass pulpit was reconstructed according to modern style and convenience. The old panelwork was used in building the altar and reredos. Art glass windows, electric lighting and furnace heating are some of the improvements.

Emanuel Congregation has enjoyed much grace and many blessings of the Lord. Although it never has been a strong body numerically, it has nevertheless prospered and stood firm and loyal. The sad disruption caused by the differing synodical interests, and the natural inclination of some members to continue their connection with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and others desiring to unite with the East Pennsylvania Synod, and the conflicting agitation of pastors, now one from this Synod and then one from the other, fomented much trouble which ended in a division of the congregation. Serious contentions between opponents and adherents of the pastor in charge led to litigations. Four times suit was brought before the Court of Lancaster County, and twice the case was carried to the Supreme Court. For nearly twenty years the controversy raged. But finally the matter was settled by the minority of members withdrawing and organizing the St. John's Congregation who built a church only a short distance from Emanuel Church.

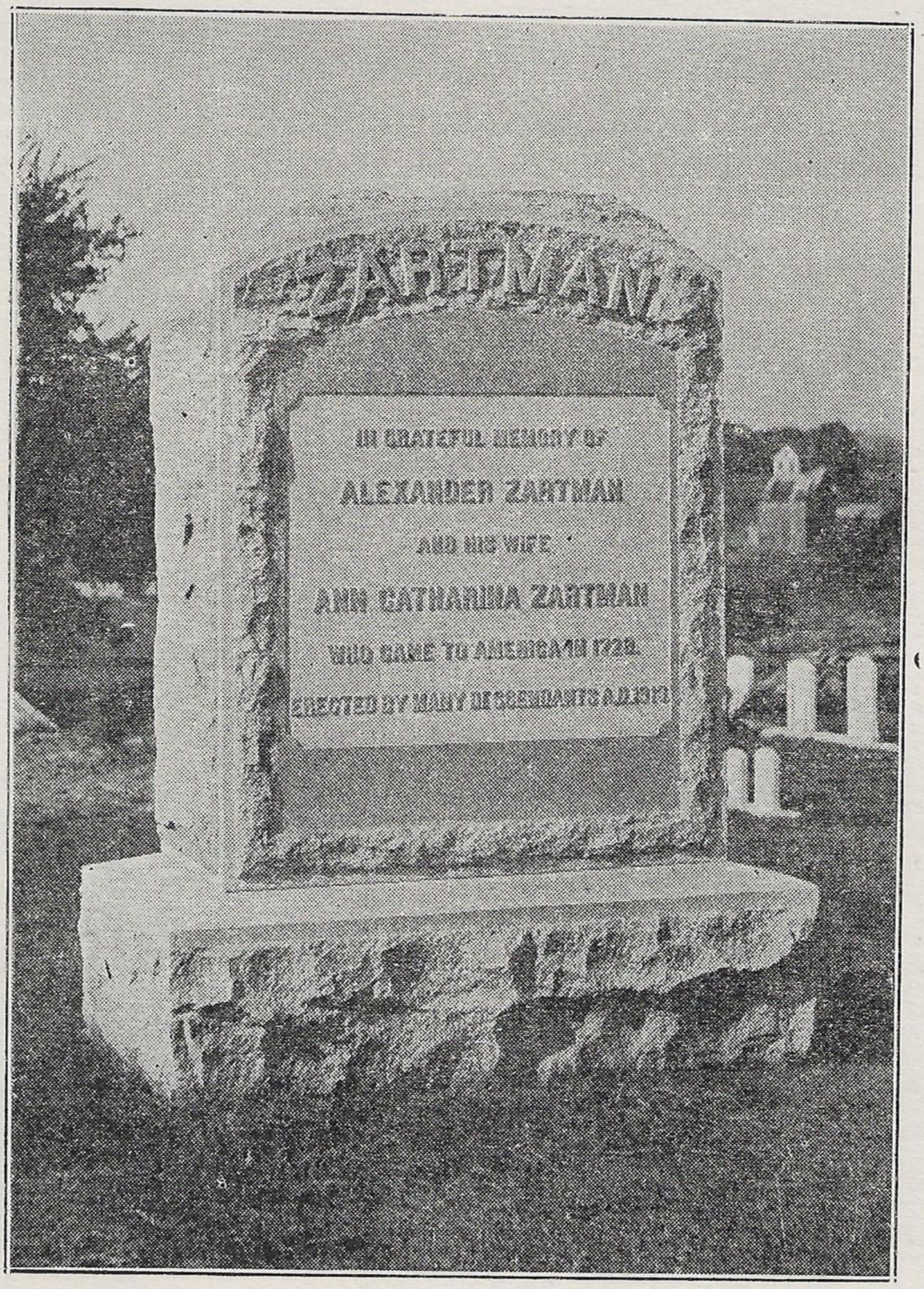
Today the congregation is in a prosperous condition with a membership of 138 active members. Besides the zeal in the general congregational interests, there are the Sunday School, Ladies' Aid Society, Woman's Missionary Society, the Church Choir and a Junior Choir, each carrying on their specific work in a commendable manner.

The cemetery also deserves recognition in this sketch. It is probably the oldest burrying ground under church management in this community. Many of the old and antique tombstones are so aged and weather-beaten that the inscriptions are illegible. A large plot of ground, although unmarked, is held sacred as the burial place of a number of Continental Soldiers who died while being cared for in the old church building. The grave of Mrs. Elizabeth Stiegel, the wife of

Baron Stiegel, is visited by many tourists, and the grave of Alexander Zartman I, is held in high esteem by his many descendants.

Much labor has been given of late years by a faithful "Cemetery Board" in improving, beautifying and caring for these sacred grounds, and with the increase of bequests and contributions to the "Perpetual Care Fund," assurance is given that it will never be neglected.

And so, with sincere convictions that "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us," and by the continued grace and favor of God, we not only rejoice in the heritage which has come to Emanuel Church from two hundred years of history, but also feel that we must not and will not "be weary in well doing" with the precious assurance that "in due season we shall reap if we faint not."



THE STONE WHICH MARKS THE GRAVE OF ALEXANDER ZARTMAN, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF EMANUEL CHURCH.

Pastors

In the earlier history of the Congregation we are not able to give an absolutely correct list. But the following are authentic:

Rev. John Casper Stoever from 1743 to 1754.

From 1754 to 1760 the writing of records differ greatly, indicating that the entries were made by different pastors, their names not being stated.

Rev. J. Nicolas Kurtz, probably from 1760 to 1768.

Rev. Daniel Kuhn, about 1769.

Rev. F. A. C. Muhlenberg, 1770 to 1773.

Rev. Johannes Schwarzbach was pastor in 1776.

Rev. J. H. C. Helmuth, probably supplied from Lancaster in 1777.

Rev. John Casper Stoever was again pastor, 1778 to 1779.

Rev. J. D. Schroeter, 1779 to 1781.

Rev. Christopher Emanuel Schulze, 1781 to 1808.

Rev. George Loehman, supplied from Lebanon during 1809.

Rev. William Baetis, 1810 to 1836.

Rev. Charles Philip Miller, 1836 to 1841.

Rev. Christopher Friederich, 1842 to 1849.

Rev. Thomas T. Jaeger, 1849 to 1852.

Rev. Carl Ries, 1852 to 1856.

Rev. M. Harpel, 1857 to 1870.

Rev. S. S. Engle, 1870 to 1874.

Rev. William S. Parr, 1874 to 1875.

Rev. F. J. F. Schantz was appointed as supply by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and Rev. P. S. Cutter was appointed as supply from the East Pennsylvania Synod from 1876 to 1879.

Rev. A. B. Markley was a supply from 1879 to 1880.

Rev. F. J. F. Schantz and Rev. J. H. Fritz supplied, 1880 to 1881.

Rev. H. E. Semmel, 1881 to 1896.

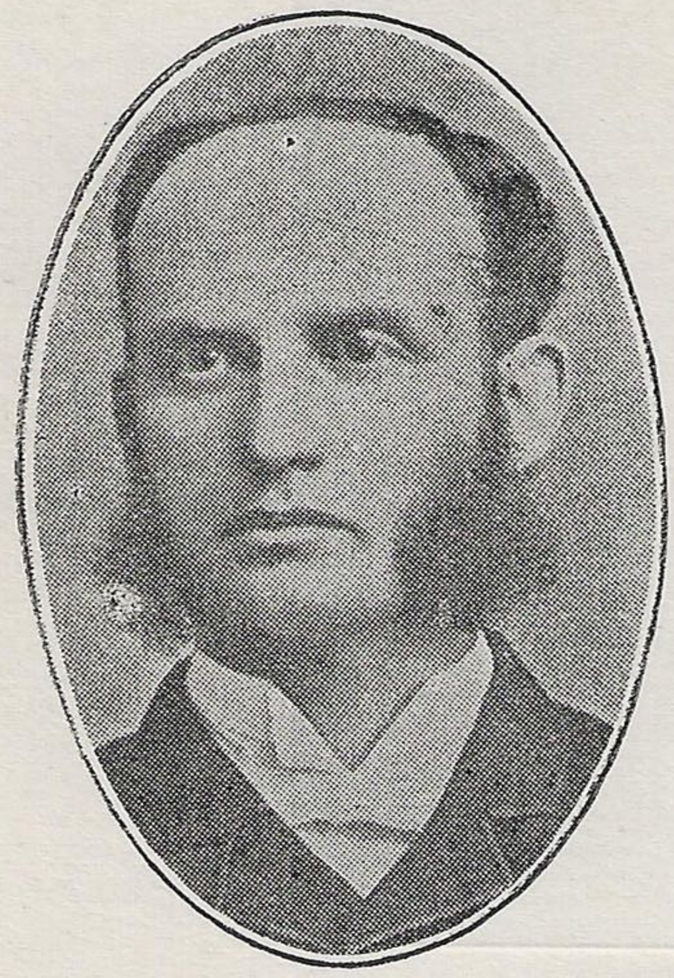
Rev. A. W. Leibensperger, 1896 to 1903.

Rev. D. A. Roth, 1904 to 1910.

Rev. J. W. Bittner, 1910 to 1914.

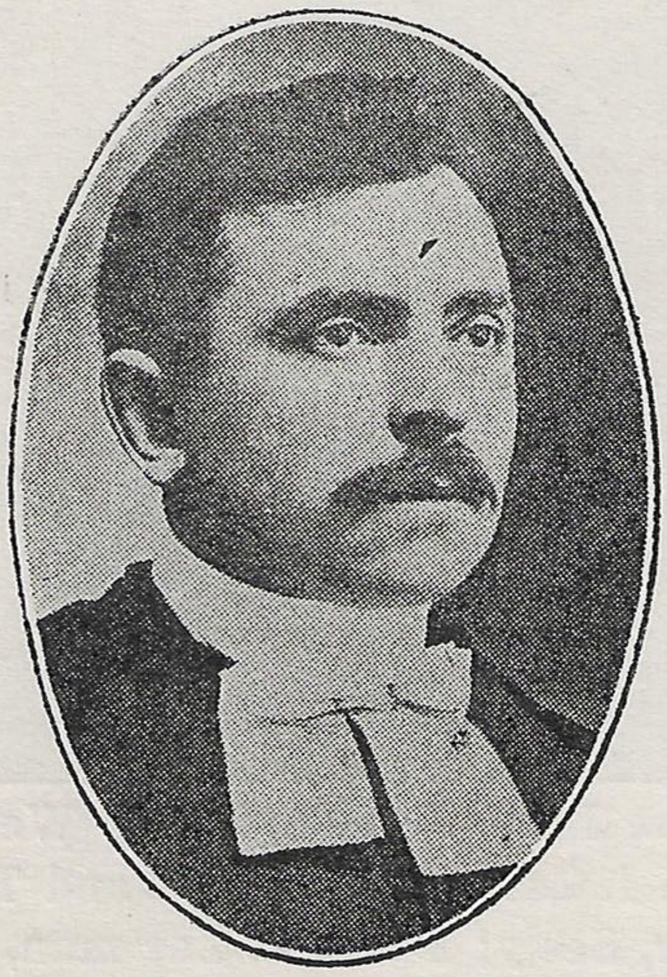
Rev. F. A. Weicksel, 1915 to 19

Living Ex-Pastors



REV. H. E. SEMMEL
1881-1896

REV. A. W. LEIBENSPERGER
1896-1903



REV. D. A. ROTH
1904-1910

REV. J. W. BITTNER
1910-1914

The Present Pastor

REV. F. A. WEICKSEL

The Present Church Council

SEATED, left to right: Elders, Jacob C. Palm, Jacob B. Erb, Philip Weidman and Wayne J. Kline. SECOND ROW: Monroe I. Zartman, Trustee and Treas.; John W. Spangler, Trustee; Harvey Y. Steiner, Sec'y; David J. Zartman, Trustee and V. Pres., and John Z. Seibert, Trustee. BACK ROW: Harry H. Bucher, Deacon and Pres.; Levi F. Seibert, Deacon; Isaac L. Leaman, Deacon and Financial Sec'y; Harry W. Strauss, Sexton, and Harry B. Palm, Deacon.

OFFICERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent, Thomas S. Ulrich
Assistant Superintendents, Wm. P. Young and Mrs. H. B. Palm
Secretary, Harvey Y. Steiner
Assistant Secretary, Isaac L. Leaman
Treasurer, Wayne J. Kline
Assistant Treasurer, Philip Weidman
Librarian, Pauline Seibert
Assistant Librarians, Edith Young and Irene Miller
Pianist, Anna Mary Seibert
Assistant Pianist, Arlene Leaman
Superintendent of Cradle Roll, Mrs. H. B. Palm

TEACHERS

Thomas S. Ulrich, Men's Bible Class
Mrs. H. B. Palm, Women's Bible Class
Wm. P. Young, Young People's Bible Class
Mrs. M. I. Zartman, Junior Bible Class
Mrs. Rufus Kline, Intermediate Class
Mrs. J. W. Spangler, Junior Class
Mrs. I. L. Leaman, Primary Department

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Mrs. W. J. Kline, President
Mrs. J. W. Spangler, Vice President
Mrs. Levi Zartman, Secretary
Mrs. Rufus Kline, Treasurer

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. H. B. Palm, President
Mrs. J. W. Spangler, Vice President
Mrs. Rufus Kline, Secretary
Mrs. Irvin N. Burkholder, Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Wayne J. Kline, Treasurer
Mrs. M. I. Zartman, Magazine Secretary
Miss Minerva Zartman, Pianist

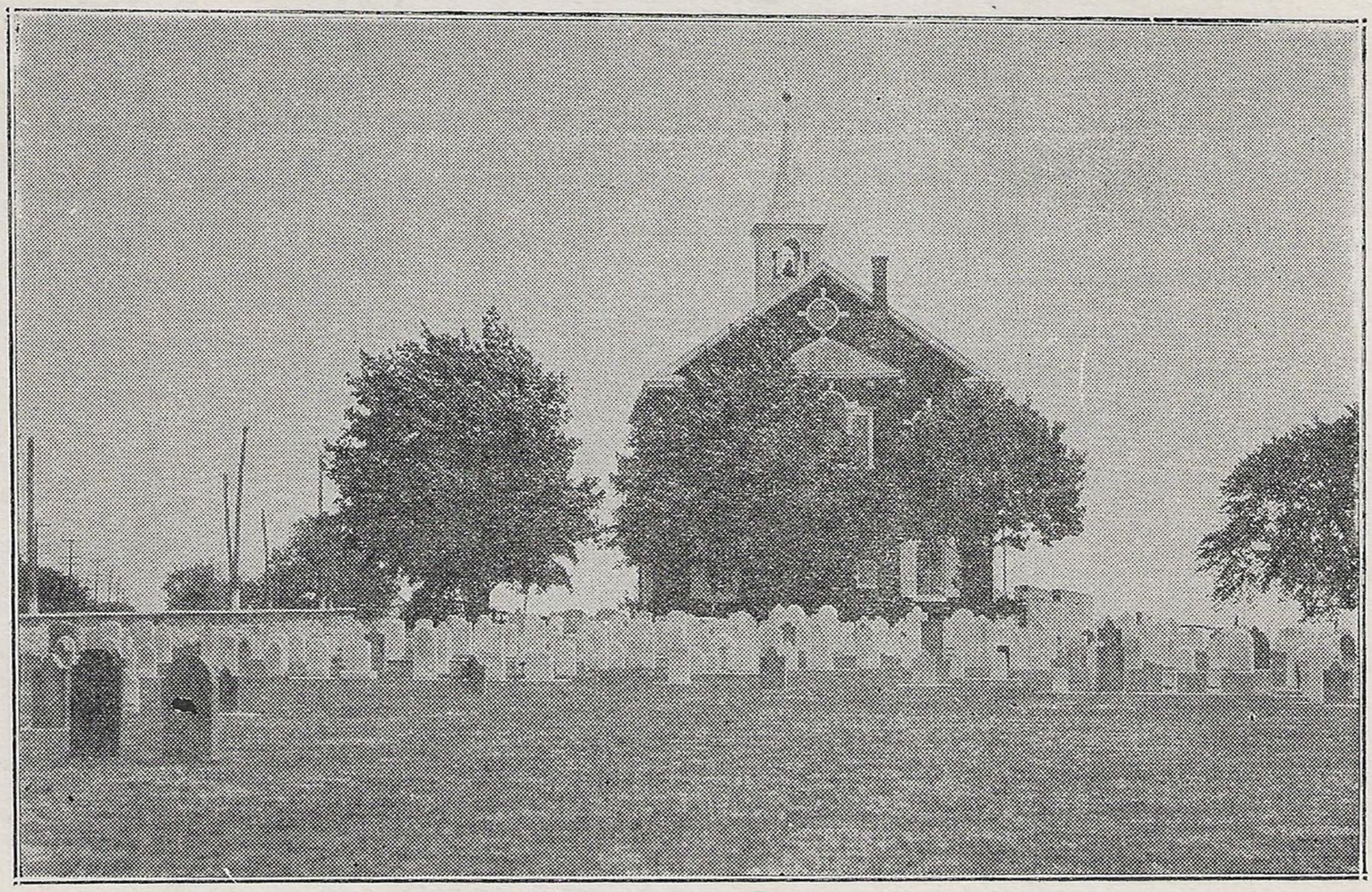
INNER MISSION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Irvin N. Burkholder
Mrs. M. I. Zartman
Jacob C. Palm
Harry H. Bucher

CEMETERY BOARD

Wayne J. Kline
Jacob C. Palm
Monroe I. Zartman

Views of the Cemetery



THE OLD SECTION

THE NEW SECTION

Anniversary Services

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Morning Service—10:15 A. M.

Conducted by the Pastor, Rev. F. A. Weicksel

Sermon by the Rev. E. P. Pfatteicher, D.D., President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Music in charge of the Penryn Lutheran Church Choir

Home Coming Service—2:30 P. M.

Service conducted by the Rev. J. W. Smith, D.D., Ephrata, Pa.

Sermon by the Rev. Rufus C. Zartman, D.D., Swarthmore, Pa.

Music in charge of the Rothsville Lutheran Church Choir

Organization Service—7:30 P. M.

Service conducted by the Rev. William Weicksel, Strasburg, Pa.

Sermon by the Rev. A. W. Liebensperger, Ephrata, Pa.

Music in charge of the Akron Lutheran Church Choir

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Lancaster Conference Night—7:30 P. M.

Service conducted by the Rev. W. R. Knerr, Denver, Pa.

Sermon by the Rev. G. A. Kercher, President of the Lancaster Conference, Mt. Joy, Pa.

Music in charge of the Denver Lutheran Church Choir

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Former Pastors Night—7:30 P. M.

Service conducted by the Rev. D. L. Fogleman, Denver, Pa.

Addresses by Rev. A. W. Liebensperger, Ephrata, Pa.; Rev. D. A. Roth, Palmerton, Pa., and Rev. J. W. Bittner, Kutztown, Pa.

Music in charge of the Lincoln Lutheran Church Choir

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Greetings from Sister Congregations of Conference Observing Their Bi-Centennial

Service conducted by the Rev. P. G. Sieger, D.D., Lancaster, Pa.

Addresses by Rev. A. B. MacIntosh, D.D., Trinity Church, Lancaster, and Rev. R. L. Winters, Trinity Church, New Holland

Music in charge of Ephrata Lutheran Church Choir

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Music Night—7:30 P. M.

Devotions conducted by the Rev. W. R. Sammel, Lititz, Pa.

Musical Program by Church Choirs from the Churches of the Parish, consisting of Male Choruses, Quartets, Duets and Solos

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Community Night—7:30 P. M.

Devotions conducted by Rev. G. B. Raezer, Lititz, Pa.

Greetings by neighboring pastors: Revs. G. W. McBride, O. O. Leidich, G. B. Raezer, W. R. Sammel, J. C. H. Light, H. J. Kline, E. S. Crosland, D.D., and Henry Zechman

Music in charge of Penryn Reformed Church Choir

SUNDAY, JUNE 29—*Concluding Service*—10:00 A. M.

Confessional Service and Holy Communion